

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-05 L-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4371

LIMDIS

PASS OSD/ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, IT
SUBJECT: MOD UNDERSECRETARY PASTORINO AND AWACS

1. SENATOR CARLO PASTORINO, UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, WHO WAS PRESENT FOR MARCH 2 AWACS BRIEFING IN ROME, EXPRESSED TO CHARGE' ON MARCH 8 HIS SUPPORT FOR ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN AWACS PROGRAM. THERE WERE HE SAID OBSTACLES REMAINING IN THE MINISTRY (PARTICULARLY IN THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE) WHICH REQUIRE CONTINUED ATTENTION FROM THIS MISSION. BUT IT WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN HIS VIEW THAT WE ADDRESS OURSELVES TO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC POLITICIANS AS WELL SINCE THE AWACS QUESTION IN THE PRESENT ITALIAN CONTEXT IS PRIMARILY "POLITICAL" IN NATURE.

2. PASTORINO SAID HE HOPED TO REMAIN IN HIS PRESENT POST THROUGH THE COMING RESHUFFLING OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE INFORMED THE CHARGE' IN THE UTMOST CONFIDENCE THAT HE INTENDED TO MAKE A PRIVATE VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA IN MID-APRIL. IT WAS LIKELY THAT HIS JOURNEY WOULD TAKE HIM THROUGH NEW YORK. IN THAT EVENT, AND ALWAYS ASSUMING HE
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WAS STILL UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL TO HIM (AND STRENGTHEN HIS CREDIBILITY WITH AWACS DOUBTERS IN THE MOD AND DC) TO MAKE A DETOUR FOR A VISIT TO THE 552ND WING AT TINKER AFB IN OKLAHOMA CITY FOR ADDED EXPOSURE TO AWACS.

3. THE EMBASSY STRONGLY ENDORSES PASTORINO'S

SUGGESTION. WE CAN USE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET. AND IF PASTORINO IN FACT REMAINS AT THE MOD HE CAN HELP THERE AND WITH HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES IN THE DC. IF A VISIT TO TINKER AFB CAN BE ARRANGED, PASTORINO IS ANXIOUS THAT THE FACT OF HIS VISIT BE HELD CLOSELY. ANY LEAD NOW HE FEARS WOULD DAMAGE HIS LATER CREDIBILITY AS A SUPPORTER OF AWACS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR AN INVITATION TO PASTORINO TO VISIT THE 552ND AWACS WING IN MID-APRIL. HOLMES

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